

**WE GATHER**  
**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**A LIGHT SHINES FOR US.**  
**JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

**Music:**

**Welcome:**

**Territorial Acknowledgment:**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

**\*Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

*(adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2019, used with permission, copyright B.J. Beu)*

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord shines like the sun.**

Behold, the nations have come to witness God's light.

**Wise Ones have come to behold Christ's brightness.**

Lift up your eyes and look around.

**The glory of the Lord is all around.**

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

**Opening Prayer:**

Glorious God,

grant us the courage to follow Christ's natal star,  
wherever your light may lead us;

grant us the wisdom to follow ancient wise ones,  
as they left the safety of their homes  
to find the infant Jesus;

likewise, grant us humble hearts,  
so that we may seek you.

Your light arises for us, illuminating the  
dark corners of our lives and of our world.

We praise you O Christ! **Amen!**

**Opening Hymn:** "Arise, Your Light Is Come" VU#79

**Prayer of Confession:**

Lord, the world's philosophies are so enticing at times;

We search within our hearts for truth and light.

We are told to trust our passions, to act on them;

that's the essence of a meaningful life.

We put so much pressure on ourselves to get it right,  
to perfect ourselves.

We easily forget that you are there, to guide us along the path.

May we follow the example set for us by the truly wise, who seek you.

May it be so. **Amen**

**Words of Affirmation:**

Friends, words of prophecy have been fulfilled  
in our hearing.

A light shines for us.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

**The Word**

**One:** *Your Word is a lamp to our feet;*

**ALL:** **And a light on our path.**

***Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.***

**Gospel Reading Matthew 2: 1-12**

**The Visit of the Wise Men**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped

over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

**ALL: Glory to you O Christ.**

**Reflection:** “A Light Shines for Us.”

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Piano Solo:** “A Light Is Gleaming” VU#82

*select verses Words and Music by Linnea Good.*

**Announcements:**

**Invitation to offer of ourselves:**

**Offertory Blessing:**

**Merciful God, may your justice roll down like waters,  
your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**May these gifts and offerings be an answer to your call.**

**May our faithful living, cast a light that illuminates the dark  
corners of our community and world. Help us to beam light for  
our glory.**

In Jesus’s name we pray, **Amen.**

**The Memory Candle:**

**Prayers of the People:**

### **SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE**

**Hymn:** “The First Nowell” VU #91 vs. 1, 2,3,6

**Benediction:**

Follow the wise ones in search of God’s Son.

We go with the promise of new life in Christ.

Follow the magi in search of meaning and purpose.

We go with the promise of new life in Christ.

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Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

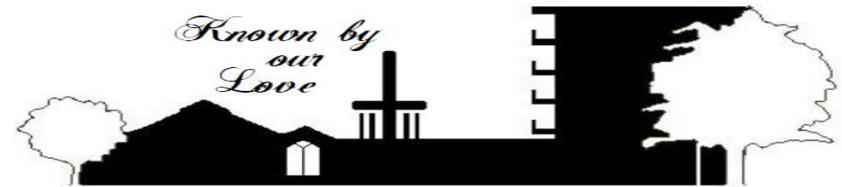
**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there watching from above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Postlude**



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